Income tax Assessments of persona) Staff of Ministers

2122. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to sl'-vte:

(a) what are the details arid particulars of Income Tax assessments of. the personal staff of the Cabinet Ministers during the last two years in each case; and

(b) what is the amount of Income Tax paid by each of them during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI); (a) and (b) The number of personal staff attached to the Cabinei Ministers is quite large and depending on their previous postings ar. d different sources of income, they would be assessed to tax in different income-tax offices in different parts of the country. Under the statutory provisions, many of them would not be under ohligation *to* file returns of income. The information will have to be collected from field formations spread all over the country which will involve considerable time and effort. However, if the information is desired regarding income-tax assessment of any particular personal staff attached to any Cabinet Minister the same can be collected and furnished.

Winding up of shipping company in Goa

@2122-A. SHRIMATl RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Goa based shopping company has decided to wind up;

(b) if so, what is the number of -hips with this company and the amount of loan which is to be returned by the company to Government;

(c) whether the amount with interest will be paid by the Company or it has to be recovered by auctioning their ships; and

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(d) what are the details of auction being undertaken by Government to safeguard its interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI); (a) Liquidation proceedings are reported to have been started against M|s. Demmpo steamship Limited, a Goa based company, under the orders of the Bombay High Court.

(b) The company has four vessels which h'ave been acquired with the assistance of the erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee. The total dues 'outstanding against the company are reported to be of the order of about Rs. 41. 30 crores.

(c) and (d) The Shipping Development Fund Committee, has been wound up with effect from 3. 4. 1987 under the provisions of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986 and its assets and liabilities have vested in Government of India consequent to its abolition. The Governmment would pursue its interest in the legal proceedings against the company.

' Steps do reduce imports of telecommunications Equipment

f2122-B. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce' the dependence on imports of telecommunication equipment to zero level ' hy increasing the indigenous production;

(b) what are the equipment 'areas where licensing capacity sanctioned at present is enough to eliminate dependence on imports;

(c) what are the reasons for large non-utilisation of the licensing capacity;

(d) what is the name of foreign company7 contract value, contract date, delivery schedule, nature and quantity of

t Previously unstarred question 1848 transferred from, 6th May, 1987.

telecommunication equipment in the case of each order for imports of equipment placed on foreign firms by Government so fcr since October, 1986; and

(e) what are the broad specifications of new types of telecom equipment to be manufactured in the country for the first time"

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) It is the policy of are Government to reduce dependence on imports of telecommunication equipment to the minimum. However, the rapid technological obsolescence in the field of telecommunications sometimes makes some imports inevitable.

(b) The equipment areas where sufficient capacity has been licensed axe the following: —

(1) Telephone instruments
(2) Teleprinters
(3) Facsimile equipment
(4) Electronic PAX/PABX
(5) Rural Automatic Exchanges (RAX)
(6) Microwave Communication equi- pnv nt
(7) Frttfiency Division Multiplexing equipment
(8) Coaxial Cable Communication systems
(9) Two way radio communication equipment

!c) Telecommunications equipment Being technologically quite sophisticated, the gestation period for attaining full licensed capacity for any product varies from about 3 years to 6 years. The equipment also Sits to pass very stringent evaluation tests before commencement of regular pioduc-tkra.

(d) Information relating to major imports of telecommunication equipment *an. de* since October, 1986 of a value more than Rs. 5 lakhs (FOB) is given in the Aanexture, *[see.* Auuendiv CXLII, Annexure No. 103].

(3) The following are the new types of telecom, equipment to be manufactured in the country:

1. Switching equipment; All the new manufacturing units for this equipment shall manufacture only Digital Electro nic type switching equipment for the following applications:

(A) Large size locai telephone exchanges
(B) Trunk Automatic Exchanges (TAX)
(C) Rural Automatic Exchanges (RAX)
(D) Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchanges (EPABX)
(E) Electronic telex exchanges

2. Long Distance Transmission equip ment: Mostly digital technology will be employed in this area also. The fol lowing are the new products to be taken up for manufacture:

(A) Digital UHF communication equipment (30 channels and 120 channels).
(B) Digital Microwave Communication equipment (480 channels and 1920 channels).
(C) Optical Fibre Communication systems
(D) Digital Coaxial Communica tion equipmert
(E) Multi Access Radio Telephone systems for rural applications.
(F) Single Channel VHF equipment.
(G) Lwgital Multiplexing equipment

3. Other items;

(A) Electronic Push-button telephones and cordless telephones.
(B) Electronic teleprinters
(C) Electronic pay phones
(D) Facsimile.

The above equipment are *to* he manufactured as per standard specifications.